SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

[0028]   Some interface is usually required between a VM and the underlying "real" OS 220 (real in the sense of being either the native OS of the underlying physical computer, or the OS or other system-level software that handles actual I/O operations, takes faults and interrupts, etc.) and hardware, which are responsible for actually executing VM-issued instructions and transferring data to and from the actual, physical memory and storage devices 112, 114. This interface is often referred to as a virtual machine monitor (VMM). A VMM is usually a thin piece of software that runs directly on top of a host, or directly on the hardware, and virtualizes all, or at least some subset of, the resources of the machine. The interface exported to the respective VM is the same as the hardware interface of the machine, or at least of *some* predefined hardware platform~~, so that the virtual OS cannot determine the presence of the VMM~~. The VMM also usually tracks and either forwards (to the OS 220) or itself schedules and handles all requests by its VM for machine resources as well as various faults and interrupts. The general features of VMMs are known in the art and are therefore not discussed in detail here.